ABDTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a demultiplexer, picture signals of channels included in an input transport stream are separated from each other and supplied to VBV buffers for the respective channels to be stored therein. Picture signals read out from the VBV buffers are supplied to a signal switch for selecting one of the signals in accordance with a switch changeover signal generated by a switch controller. The selected picture signals selected from the VBV buffers are supplied to a variable-length decoder for decoding the signals on a time-division basis. Decoded picture data of a channel is selected by another signal switch in accordance with another switch changeover signal generated by the switch controller and supplied to one of picture memories for the channel to be stored therein. A display controller reads out a plurality of picture signals from the picture memories synchronously in accordance with a display timing signal generated by a display controller. As a result, a plurality of pieces of encoded data can be decoded by using only one decoding system.